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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DONOVAN).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 13, 2018.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DANIEL M. DONOVAN, Jr. to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 8, 2018, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

HIGHER EDUCATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, almost exactly a year ago, when the Trump administration came into office and the new Republican majority again elected its leaders, they promised to focus on the forgotten American, the middle class families that have been left behind, according to the speeches that were given at that time.

Well, there is no issue which I think resonates more powerfully with middle

class families than the unrelenting rise in the cost of college and higher education.

Again, the numbers surround us: \$1.3 trillion in student loan debt, according to the Federal Reserve Board.

Just a few weeks ago, some colleges and universities, the real flagships of our Nation, the Harvards, the Yales, announced that tuition, room and board now will exceed \$70,000 a year.

Again, not every college charges that much, but, unfortunately, if you look historically, as those colleges and universities surpass these unfortunate milestones, most colleges follow right in the wake.

We need action and we need change in terms of making sure that that ticket to success, whether it is in science, technology, engineering, and math, for young Americans is actually going to exist, and this Congress has neglected and failed to move forward.

Just within the last month, what we have seen is the following. The IRS just issued their follow-up rules to the Republican tax bill, which clarifies that families can no longer deduct home equity loans to pay for college. So for a family who has diligently paid their mortgages, whose kid has been accepted to a college and university, who doesn't qualify for Pell grants, who has exhausted their Stafford loans, because those are capped, and who wants to actually use the equity in their house to help pay for college, they can no longer deduct the interest on those payments.

I am very much thankful to the Republican tax bill, which, again, took great care of people who earn over \$400,000, whose top marginal rates were drastically cut, or corporations whose rates were drastically cut; but middle class families are, again, now being asked to bear a higher cost for college by cutting off that avenue that, again, millions of families have used over the years in terms of using their home's equity.

In addition, the Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos—400 days in office and she has never stepped foot in the Education and the Workforce Committee, which I sit on—last Friday, issued a rule that basically preempted the ability of States attorneys general to issue rules and regulations to protect students and families from unscrupulous loan servicers.

Again, our offices get flooded with calls with frustrated students who graduated and, again, have loan servicers who lose documents, who lose payments. And, again, what was happening at the State level, both Republicans and Democratic attorneys general were putting into place rules and regulations to protect those people caught in these predicaments.

On Friday, the Secretary of Education, a Republican, who supposedly believes in States' rights, told those States that they will be issuing rules preempting States from protecting those people caught in these situations. Unbelievable.

Lastly, last week, the Office of Inspector General, which is a nonpartisan arm of government—its job is to look at government negligence and malfeasance and problems—issued a warning that the Republican higher education bill, which was reported out in December, the misnamed PROSPER Act, will, again, lift all the regulations on for-profit colleges, which, again, take advantage of students, overpromising skills and degrees that turn out to be worthless at the end. Again, we know about ITT Tech, Corinthian Colleges, which was shut down by the last administration because of the outrageous practices that they were involved in.

The PROSPER Act basically lifts all of those controls that the Department has over them, and it is open season in terms of students who are going to be subject to that kind of environment.

By the way, the group that is probably the most vulnerable are veterans,

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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because their GI Bill is so rich in benefits, those are the ones that for-profit colleges target.

Why do I know that?

Holly Petraeus, General David Petraeus's wife, who was in charge of warning veterans about these problems a couple of years ago—again, the term that she uses is that for-profit colleges see servicemembers as nothing more than dollar signs in uniforms—again, has warned us that this sector of the higher education community needs more scrutiny in terms of making sure that there is real gainful employment for people who go through these colleges, and to make sure that those colleges actually do not siphon off precious GI Bill dollars, Pell dollars and Stafford loans.

It is time for this Congress to wake up and respond to what was one of the most powerful issues in 2016 about the cost of colleges drowning middle class families. But just again in the last month, we have seen this Republican administration and this Congress go in exactly the opposite direction. We need better.

REMEMBERING GRADY "BUBBER" BROWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. ABRAHAM) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, Grady "Bubber" Brown passed away on February 10, 2018, in Lake Providence, Louisiana.

Born on March 8, 1934, he was the son of the late William Dennis Brown, Jr., and Martha Wyly Brown.

During college at the age of 19, he and his younger brother, Philip, were given 48 acres of land to farm rice on during their summer break. That year, they made a \$800 profit and immediately spent it on an airplane.

Buzzy Tomlinson had a plane for sale, and they bought it with the agreement that he would teach them to fly, and he did. He gave them about 5 hours of instructions and sent them on their way.

They landed on their own front yard, as proud as they could be to show their parents the new purchase.

Steve Guenard did give them official flight lessons, and both received their pilot's license.

After graduation from LSU, Bubber joined the Naval Aviation Officer Candidate School. He spent the next 4 years flying F-3Js, F-4Js, Chance Vought F8U-1s, and F8U-2s.

He had two Mediterranean tours, one North American tour, and he had a 3-month tour off the coast of Cuba.

He made over 400 carrier landings, both day and night, during his time in service.

His father died in 1961, so he decided to resign his regular commission and return to manage the family Panola farm.

In 1966, his cousin, Brenda Brown, came home from college with her

roommate, Jennie Lou Ropp. Bubber and Jennie Lou were married a year later, and they have three children today: Grady, Jr.; Glen; and Katie.

He was always involved with the children's activities. He was president of St. Patrick's school board for 12 years, baseball coach, flight instructor, hunting guide, and more and more.

He not only taught both of his sons to fly, but his nephew, too; and he was very proud of them.

Bubber was an entrepreneur. He was the first farmer in the area to utilize second growth farming. He always came up with new projects.

In 1983, Bubber decided to start a new business, Panola Pepper Corporation, making his mother's recipe for her famous hot sauce. The idea was to employ his farm workers during the winter season. Creating jobs was his passion, and it was his specialty in the Lake Providence, Louisiana, area.

Bubber was on many councils and committees, and received numerous awards. He served on the Louisiana Rice Council for many years and was actively involved in the LSU Rice Research Station.

He was the lifelong member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church, where he was on the church building committee, parish council, finance council, and an active member of the Knights of Columbus.

He was also a lecture, usher, and Eucharistic minister.

In 2003, he received the Louisiana Small Business Award.

In 2005, he was asked by Governor Blanco to travel to Cuba with her delegation to promote Louisiana agriculture.

Bubber had seven grandchildren: Wyly Brown, Lauren Brown, Emma Brown, Carter Coullard, Will Brown, Ben Coullard, and Andrew Brown.

He loved his grandchildren and was very proud of every one of them.

Bubber's legacy is that he taught his family how to be good Christians. He taught them all about goodness, kindness, patience, peace, hospitality, generosity, joy, faithfulness, self-control, and, most of all, love.

Bubber was the epitome of the Southern gentleman. He will be sorely missed.

RECOGNIZING DREW SCOTT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, my office is now accepting artwork for the 2018 Congressional Art Competition.

Each spring, the Congressional Institute sponsors a nationwide high school visual arts competition to recognize artistic talent in the Nation and in each congressional district.

In 2017, the winning entry was drawn by Drew Scott from Rockport-Fulton High School. Her piece, "Complementary Calico," along with the other 2017 winning entries from other congres-

sional districts, currently hang in the Cannon tunnel, the walkway that connects the U.S. Capitol to the House office buildings.

The Congressional Art Competition is a great way to encourage artistic abilities and reward talented students for their efforts and gives them an opportunity to compete.

Since the competition began in 1982, more than 6,500 high school students have participated.

Students from the district I represent, the 27th District of Texas, who wish to participate in this competition may submit up to two pieces of artwork to my office by Friday, April 6, 2018, in order to be considered.

I wish all the talented high schoolers of the 27th District of Texas the best of luck.

RECOGNIZING JOYCE HUNSAKER

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Joyce Hunsaker, a 17-year-old from Corpus Christi, who recently won a bronze medal in the International Bunker Trap at the World Shotgun Championship in Moscow.

Joyce has been named a member of the elite 4-person Texas State National 4-H shotgun team. In June of last year, her teammates and her competed in the National Championships in Grand Island, Nebraska, where they took home first place in team skeet shooting and sporting clays, third in trap, and earned the title of National Champions for 2017.

Joyce also competed and won the Junior Women's gold medal in the 2017 State Junior Olympics international bunker trap competition last year.

Joyce then advanced to the 2017 National Junior Olympic Championships in Colorado Springs, where she took home a bronze medal in the Junior Women's International Bunker Trap event and was selected to represent the United States as a member of the 2017 Junior World Cup Team.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Joyce on all her hard work and success that she is enjoying as a result of it. Keep up the good work.

GUNS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I want to share the words of Geneva Cunningham. She is 15 years old. She is a ninth grader from the Hopkins Grammar School in New Haven, Connecticut.

Geneva witnessed the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre when she was only in the fourth grade. Geneva's father gave me her poem in the wake of the Parkland, Florida, school shooting, though Geneva wrote it just a few days before the shooting occurred. This is what she wrote:

Pure;